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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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September 16, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MACRO HOMES-  
MACRO HOMES 2 GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Macro Homes 2 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Macro Homes. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Macro Homes 2 Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Macro Homes 2 Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children and one San Bernardino County Child.

Macro Homes 2 Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Group Home needs to develop and update Needs and Services Plans with input from the placement workers; and ensure that all children on psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Acting Chief Probation Officer  
Kathleen Astourian, Executive Director, Macro Homes  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Macro Homes  
Macro Homes 2 Group Home  
1165 Ivesbrook Street  
Lancaster, California 93534  
Phone: (661) 945-5503  
License Number: 191221473  
Rate Classification Level: 9**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation and interviews**

#### **Comments:**

Macro Homes 2 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. However, there is no documentation to show that the NSPs are developed and updated with input from the placement workers. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

**Recommendation**

1. Macro Homes' management include the placement workers as part of the treatment team in developing and updating NSPs.

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of documents for relevant case files**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that most children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, one child has not been evaluated for her medication since her placement in the Group Home.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

- 2. Macro Homes management ensure that all children on psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

# MACRO HOMES

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Attachment  
Page 1 of 1

KATHLEEN F. ASTOURIAN  
ADMINISTRATOR

VICTORIA DENHAM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LETTY REESER  
SECRETARY

ALICE MASON  
TREASURER

Corrective Action Plan  
Macro Homes 2 Group Home  
1165 Ivesbrook Street  
Lancaster, California 93534

Attention: Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsmund  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
Fax: (213) 346-9020

## II. Program Services

CAP – Macro Homes added "Collaboration" section to Quarterly Report & Needs and Services Plan" to specifically document collaborations or attempted collaborations with placement workers to develop and update NSP's.

## V. Psychotropic Medications

CAP – Macro Homes upon intake will not admit a child on psychotropic medications unless a psychiatric appointment is in place.

Submitted by: Kathleen Kerrigan/Astourian MA  
Administrator of Macro Homes

